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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7257**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1607

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 9, 2003

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Highway Signage.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Whetstone

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**    **GENERAL**  
                          **X DEDICATED**  
                          **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill requires the Department of Transportation (INDOT) and the Department of Commerce to develop criteria under which limited tourist attraction signage may be posted in a particular area for the convention, visitors, and tourism commission of Hendricks County.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2003.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** All costs of manufacturing, installation, and maintenance to the Indiana Department of Transportation for a business sign posted under this code subsection shall be paid by the business. However, if the sign is a true government-operated attraction, then the INDOT assumes the costs. The fund affected is the state Highway Fund.

***Background Information:*** The INDOT states that the particular location in this proposal may not meet the INDOT's specific definition of government-operated attraction because the facility is not staffed, but merely has information for the public. To be a true government-operated attraction, it must be staffed, according to INDOT.

***Background Information:***

IC 9-21-4-5, which appears below, governs the placement and maintenance of limited tourist attraction signs and business signs on highways in Indiana.

Sec. 5. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), a person may not place or maintain upon a highway a traffic sign or signal bearing commercial advertising. A public authority may not permit the placement of a traffic sign or signal that bears a commercial message.

(b) Under criteria to be jointly established by the Indiana Department of Transportation and the

Department of Commerce, the Indiana Department of Transportation may authorize the posting of any of the following:

(1) Limited tourist attraction signage.

(2) Business signs on specific information panels on the interstate system of highways and other freeways. All costs of manufacturing, installation, and maintenance to the Indiana Department of Transportation for a business sign posted under this subsection shall be paid by the business.

(c) A person may not place, maintain, or display a flashing, a rotating, or an alternating light, beacon, or other lighted device that:

(1) is visible from a highway; and

(2) may be mistaken for or confused with a traffic control device or for an authorized warning device on an emergency vehicle.

(d) This section does not prohibit the erection, upon private property adjacent to highways, of signs giving useful directional information and of a type that cannot be mistaken for official signs.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Transportation; Department of Commerce.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Hendricks County Convention, Visitor, and Tourism Commission.

**Information Sources:** Larry Rust, Department of Transportation, Operations Field Engineer, 232-5549.

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